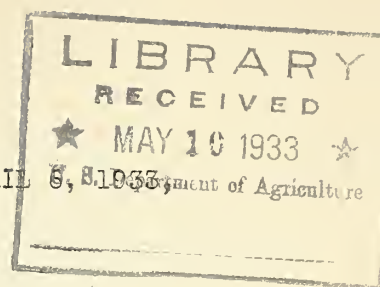


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ADDRESS BY R. Y. STUART, CHIEF FORESTER; 1:15 P.M., APRIL 8, 1933, Department of Agriculture
IN THE NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR



Only a moment ago, I left a conference of State Foresters, meeting here today to work out plans for putting into effect the vast program for unemployment relief through the performance of useful work in the forests.

On the last day of March, President Roosevelt signed the bill enacted by Congress which authorized this program.

Under this authorization, some 250 thousand men from all walks of life-- men who are now traveling the streets and highways in quest of jobs, men who are subsisting upon charity but would rather gain their subsistence by honest work-- some 250 thousand of these men will be given healthful outdoor employment in the forests. The effect will undoubtedly be felt all the way up and down the line; there will be 250,000 fewer men competing for available jobs in private industry and for local relief through charity. There will be increased business for local markets through the business of providing wholesome food and necessary equipment for these thousands of forest workers.

At the same time we shall be accomplishing some enormously important public work-- work much needed for the protection and improvement of our forests. We shall be developing and safeguarding a vital national resource, building for future national wealth. While the purpose of this big forest work program is primarily unemployment relief, it by no means calls for "made work," intended merely to keep men busy. The labor performed in the forests will render a great public service by helping to put the forests of the country in a productive condition which would have taken decades to attain under ordinary circumstances. It will help to check the huge losses we now sustain each year from fires and from floods. It is work that should eventually yield direct and indirect benefits to the Nation far beyond its present cost.

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It is also significant that the work to be carried on under this program is largely work which does not supplant any other employed labor. It will throw no other men out of jobs, and its products will not replace those of any other industry. The men who enlist for work in the forest camps, therefore, will in no sense be living on the bounty of their Government. They will be performing useful work of a high public service nature. As we see it, the camps will provide the opportunity to thousands of men to get away from a state of idleness, malnutrition, discomfort and discouragement, and through their useful labors attain an earned measure of comfort, self-respect, and hopefulness for themselves and their families.

We are working hard these days to put the program into operation in the shortest possible time. We expect to be ready to have some men actually at work within two weeks. Four departments of the Government are working together on the project-- the Departments of Labor, War, Interior, and Agriculture. A director has been appointed by the President to head up the whole program. Men who apply for admission to the camps are being enrolled by the Department of Labor. Yesterday it was announced that 25 thousand men from 16 cities had been enrolled by the Department of Labor, working in cooperation with Federal and State employment services and with welfare agencies in the cities selected. Today the War Department is beginning to convey these men from the places of selection to nearby conditioning camps. The Departments of Interior and Agriculture will lay out and supervise the work of the organized crews on the national forests, the national parks, the forests on Indian reservations, and on other federally owned lands. Much of the work will be done on our national forests, under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. The national forests with a total area of more than 161 million

acres, and located in 30 States, offer unlimited opportunities for useful work. I have already assembled here in Washington the Regional Foresters from the nine national forest regions of the country and they are now engaged at mapping out plans for starting the work immediately. All of this work on the national forests will be in line with an established, long-term improvement program. It will include the reduction of fire hazards on areas where the greatest danger of fire exists. It will include the improvement of timber stands by thinning and other cultural practices that make for better, faster growing trees. It will bring about better fire suppression through the construction of fire breaks, telephone lines, lookout stations, fire protection roads and trails, and emergency landing fields. It will include work to eradicate insect pests and diseases of the forest trees. It will also include the planting of trees on burned-over and denuded areas, but the amount of tree planting that can be done is of course limited by the amount of available nursery stock for planting. It should perhaps be made clear that, while the forest work program has been spoken of frequently as a reforestation program, reforestation, in the narrow sense of tree planting, is only one of the many lines of work that can be undertaken with a view to the conservation and development of our national forest resources and the improvement of the national forest facilities for the benefit of the public.

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All this work on our national forests will be in line with existing long-term plans for the development and protection of the forest resources. The plan will mean a vast speeding-up of an established national forest improvement program. The decentralized and flexible organization of the Forest Service will aid^{it} in putting the program into effect on the national forests in a systematic way, and in minimum time. The Forest Service's facilities for adapting itself suddenly to demands of fire and other emergency jobs requiring quick organization and supervision of large bodies of men have been highly developed over a period of years. Infact, we are proud of our organization; we feel confident that we can meet this emergency call for undertaking a huge program of work on our national forests promptly, efficiently, and effectively.

The act of Congress which authorized the forest work plan provided also for extension of the work to State-owned and private forest lands under cooperative agreements. Last Saturday the Secretary of Agriculture sent telegrams to the Governors of the 48 States, inviting them to send representatives to a conference in Washington for the purpose of making plans for the execution of the program on State and private lands. At this moment, the representatives of the States are meeting here in Washington, and as I said, I left the conference only a few minutes ago to talk to you from this studio.

Congress made the provision in the Act for the extension of the work to private lands in order that a larger share of the work might be carried on in the States east of the Mississippi, where only selectively small areas of Federal and State forest lands exist. Perhaps it is not thoroughly understood that work under this program on privately owned lands will involve only such types of projects as are primarily of public benefit, rather than chiefly of benefit to the owner of the land. By this, I mean such kinds of work as the prevention and control of forest fires, the eradication of insect pests and tree diseases, the control of floods,

and checking of soil erosion, all of which work is of direct public interest, and the value of which extends far beyond the boundaries of a given tract of land. The Federal Government is already authorized by Congress to cooperate with the States and private land owners in carrying on work of this kind.

So the Nation's forest resources are being called upon as a means of prompt, effective, large-scale relief for unemployment. Our forests time and again have contributed to the solution of important national economic problems. They were the first and greatest natural resource to be drawn upon when the American colonies were established. They contributed to the rapid development of the pioneer West, and their wealth went into the building of cities, railroads, and farmsteads. Timber from America's forests played no small part in winning the World War. Now the forests are being called upon to help meet a national peace time emergency. It is our job to bring the work and the workers together in a systematic way, to give them the opportunity for respectable, healthful, and useful work.

We do not see this project as a permanent cure for the depression: it will not take care of all of our unemployed, nor will it start all the wheels of idle industry. But we do believe that it will be a real help -- a help to men in distress, and at the same time a vast forward step in the great task of re-hewing, protecting, and upbuilding vital public resources. While the relief may be temporary, it may mean life itself to thousands of our citizens. As we envision the project, it will give thousands of men a chance to face the world with a clearer eye and a renewed purpose, at the same time that it builds for future national wealth.

